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viz., that the rights of the Senate as a part of the treaty-making power, are to be fully preserved, and that questions of purely national policy do not come within the scope of the pacts. By the time this paper reaches our readers the senate's action will be known to the country and the world.

The Navy League Peace Meeting.

When the Navy League feels compelled to enter the field occupied by the peace societies and hold a peace meeting, so called on their convention program, it would seem at first thought as if the peace cause were finally won. Indeed, it is a remarkable evidence of the immense progress of the peace movement and the power which it now exercises over the nation at large, that the League has this year for the first time done just this thing. It has realized finally the deepening opposition of the people to the continual increase of the navy and to the enormous burdens of taxation and of high cost of living thereby laid upon them. It has felt, therefore, obliged to try in a positive way to make it appear that the navy is nothing more than an instrument of peace—the best possible instrument—and that battleships and other naval paraphernalia have no tendency in the direction of war. It was with this intention, we suppose, that the League on Friday afternoon, February 23, during its annual convention in Washington, held a professedly peace meeting.

But in spite of its efforts to establish its contention that a big and constantly increasing navy is the best guarantee of peace, the attempt to recoup its waning fortunes by appearing before the public in the garb of a peacemaker was not a conspicuous success. The Continental Hall in Washington, in which the meeting was held, was scarcely half filled, and there was little enthusiasm in the audience. So it appeared to our representative who was present. The emphasis of the speaking, as was to be expected, was upon the necessity of adding two new battleships to the navy this year, and upon the navy in general as the greatest possible guarantee of peace. The arguments for this position were the same as we have been accustomed to hear for some years past, and have often been answered in our columns. The brief speech of President Taft could not have given the Navy Leaguers much consolation. He distinctly declared that the increase and strengthening of the navy is, in his judgment, but a temporary measure. The time will come when the nations will enter into such conventions as will abolish war or render it extremely improbable, and then navies and armies will be little needed. As that time has not yet come, the President felt that a strong navy is a guarantee of peace, and he would therefore be ready to sign a bill for building two Dreadnaughts this year, if Congress should pass one.

We regret very much that the President did not see his way to take the opposite course and to declare openly for immediate arrest of naval increase. His course on the arbitration treaties has been up-to-date, clear-sighted, and courageous. It has met with most extraordinary support from the nation. If he had declared unequivocally for no more Dreadnaughts the approval of the country would have been even stronger

than it has been for the arbitration treaties. That was the logical position for the President to take. In not taking it he has, we think, missed one of the greatest opportunities that ever came to the head of a great nation to advance a long step forward the growing Christian civilization of the world. The time has clearly come for our country to stop the increase of the navy. The great omens of the day all point away from such increase. To lead in the establishment of pacific international institutions, and at the same time to be feverishly supporting the great military and naval establishments which are confessed by the heads of several of the great powers to be a satire on civilization, is clearly a contradiction for which it is hard to find any excuse.

Our country has no enemies. No nation has ever thought of attacking us. We were as safe from attack when our navy was less than half its present size as we are today. Every battleship added increases suspicion and distrust, if not positive dislike, among other nations toward us, and thus helps to keep up the ruinous rivalry of armaments now prevailing. What the President ought to do is to make an immediate proposal to all the naval powers to enter into an agreement for the arrest and reduction of the navies of the world. They would, we are sure, respond as eagerly and as quickly to such a proposal, if made in a sincere and *bona fide* way, as they have to the proposal for unlimited arbitration treaties.

The recent action of the Democratic caucus in Congress in deciding to vote against the addition of any new Dreadnaughts to the navy this year is, we think—and we speak from an entirely non-partisan point of view—a much truer interpretation of the will of the American people and of the present needs and demands of civilization in general, than the proposal to further increase the navy, and thus lay additional burdens on the already overlaid backs of the people. We very much hope that the members of the majority party in the House of Representatives will adhere to their caucus decision, and that this year will not only be made memorable by the conclusion of treaties of arbitration to cover every class of disputes between nations, but also by the beginning of the arrest of the vastly overgrown naval and military establishments which are already driving the world rapidly toward bankruptcy and toward such a cataclysm of disorder and ruin as men have never yet seen on this earth of ours.

More International Visits.

The announcement of the coming visit of Secretary Knox to the republics south of us has recalled the many beneficent influences of former Secretary Root's trip to the South American capitals. The recent visit of the British Secretary of War, Lord Haldane, to Berlin has again demonstrated the great value of such visits in promoting good feeling and preparing the way for better relations between countries. The present Secretary of State, who has already started on his trip, is certain to be received in Central and South America with the same sincere and elaborate hospitality as char-

acterized the journey of his distinguished predecessor five years ago. Whatever grounds of complaint any of the South American countries may feel themselves justified in holding against us will not in the least, we are sure, interfere with the proper expression of the respect and honor due to the representative of our country on such a visit as this. We expect nothing but the best of results from Mr. Knox's journey in deepening the feelings of friendship and goodwill between these countries and our own. He will assure them, of course, that the Monroe Doctrine is not to be exercised in any way to interfere with their independence and rights, either political or commercial.

The diplomatic indiscretion of Minister Ospina will not, we think, interfere in any way with Mr. Knox's being warmly received at the capital of Colombia. This indiscretion has been reproved by the government of Colombia and Mr. Ospina recalled from his position as Minister to this country. We wish that Secretary Knox, when he arrives at the Colombian capital, might be able, under instructions from President Taft, to say to the Colombian government that we are now ready to arbitrate the question of indemnity due from our Government to Colombia because of the alleged violation by the United States of our former treaty with Colombia in connection with the setting up of the republic of Panama. However severely we may condemn the diplomatic imprudence of Minister Ospina, it is perfectly well known that there is a great deal of truth behind what he said. The general feeling in Colombia is strong against this country, because of what is there considered to have been a serious violation of the treaty above referred to. Arbitration of the question has frequently been urged upon us by the Colombian government, but has heretofore always been refused. If Secretary Knox would take this step and assure the Colombian authorities that we are ready to let this question of indemnity—for that is all the Colombian government has ever proposed—go to the Hague Court, more would be done toward relieving any feeling of fear of this country among the South American States than all of the speeches which the Secretary may make in all the capitals south of us. This question will have to be arbitrated some day. The moral sense of the nation will require it. Why not do it now?

The German Elections.

The growth of opposition in Germany to the devouring militarism of the nation, with its increasing burdens upon the masses, has been strikingly demonstrated by the results of the recent election for members of the Reichstag. The Socialists have nearly doubled their representation, having elected some 110 members of the new Parliament. These seats represent more than four

millions of voters, about one-third of the entire voting population of the empire, and constitute the Socialists the largest party group in the Reichstag. It is scarcely possible that any serious legislation can be carried through without their consent. The significance of this Socialist triumph—for such it is—for the peace movement lies in the fact that the Socialist party is in the closest affiliation and coöperation with their fellow Socialists in other countries. They are radically opposed to all those international policies of vituperation, nagging, and distrust which result in tension and war scares and promote the constant increase of armaments and war budgets, with the consequent progressive exhaustion of the people. They believe and practice, if we may use the word, solidarity among the peoples of different countries as well as among the citizens of their own country. Representatives of these German Socialists took part in the Copenhagen Conference in 1910, where the proposition was seriously discussed, and finally committed for study to the groups in the different countries, that in case of a declaration of war between two nations a general strike of all the workers in the government shops should be declared, in order to make the war impossible. The presence of so many of these men in the German Parliament is certain to have a powerful influence over the foreign policies of the government, to hasten the conclusion of such international conventions as will lessen the chances of war, and ultimately lead to reduction of armaments. This, we think, is a fair forecast of the influence for the peace of the world which the increase of the Socialist element in the German Parliament is sure to have.

Reduction of Armaments.

In his remarkable speech before the London City Liberal Club on Saturday, the 3d of February, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd-George, is said by British papers distinctly to have foreshadowed some arrangement, or some attempt at an arrangement, among the powers for a reduction of armaments. The part of his speech devoted to this subject was received with the utmost enthusiasm by the great audience of Liberals, who filled every part of the hall. After defending his budget against the criticisms of the Opposition, he said:

"But if you want really to effect economy in finance—and we all do. Who is it that is rejoicing in increased expenditure? The governments do not—if you really want to effect an economy, you must arrest the growth of armaments. When the Unionist government came into power, in 1895, the aggregate cost of the army and navy—and that is now fifteen years ago—was 39 millions (sterling). When they left office, if you include what they called temporary borrowing (laughter)—but it was really expenditure for the year—it came to 70